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Mr. HALLETT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Hexham Urban District Council

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1933.

HEXHAM:

J. CATHERALL & CO. (PRINTERS), LTD., BEAUMONT STREET.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1933.

Hexham House,
Hexham.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hexham Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1933, on the lines indicated in the Circular, 1296, as follows:—

Sec. A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	5,149
Estimate of Resident Population, 1933	8,888
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1933, according to Rate Book	2,100
Rateable Value, and Sum represented by a Penny Rate (£60,000)	£250

Social Conditions, including Industries carried on in the Area.

No large industries; nothing affecting the public health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live-Births.

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	104	55	49
Illegitimate	8	4	4

(Corrected by the Registrar General's figures.)

Still-Births.

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	1	1	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Birth-Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population 12.4
Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births 8.8

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	128	69	59

Death-Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Population 14.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar's Short List).

Number of Women Dying in, or in consequence of Child-birth	Nil
From Sepsis	Nil
Other Causes	Nil

Death-Rate of Infants under One Year of Age—Per 1,000 Live Births.

Legitimate	53.57
Illegitimate	8.93

Deaths from Measles, all ages	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa, under 2 years	1

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths registered is 128. 69 were Males and 59 Females. The average number of deaths for the last ten years was 118. 128 Deaths is equivalent to a Death-Rate of 14.4 on an estimated population of 8,888 and compares unfavourably with the figure of 12.3 for England and Wales, and 11.0 for the 132 smaller towns with an average population of from 25,000 to 50,000.

The General Death-Rate.

	England and Wales.	Hexham.
1927 to 1931	12.22 ...	13.7
1932	12.0 ...	13.05
1933	12.3 ...	14.4

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Influenza	3 ...	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2 ...	2
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Doesales	— ...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	9 ...	10
Diabetes	1 ...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	— ...	1
Heart Disease	14 ...	12
Other Circulatory Diseases	5 ...	4
Bronchitis	3 ...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	2 ...	2
Peptic Ulcer	1 ...	1
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	— ...	1

Appendicitis	1	... —
Other Digestive Diseases	—	... 1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	7	... 8
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	1	... —
Senility	5	... 2
Suicide	2	... —
Other Violence	4	... 4
Other Defined Diseases	9	... 4
Causes, ill-defined or unknown	—	... 1
	69	... 59
		Total: 128

Ages at Death.

	Total.	M.	F.
Under one year	7	4	3
1-5 years	4		
5-15 years	2		
15-20 years	—		
20-25 years	2		
25-35 years	9		
35-45 years	6		
45-55 years	13		
55-65 years	17		
65 years and over	68		
Total	128		

Of these, 14 were over 70, 17 were over 80 and two were over 90 years.

Attention has been repeatedly called to the large number of deaths over 65 years, as being the cause which tends to augment our Death-Rate figures. It is interesting to note the figures given by the County M.O.H. for 1931:—

Death-Rate, 65 and Upwards.

Administrative County	5.40
Urban District of same	4.87
Rural District of same	7.01
Hexham, 1931	10.0
Hexham, 1932	7.03
Hexham, 1933	7.65

Seven deaths under one year gives an Infantile Mortality of 62.5 per 1,000 births, against last year's figure, 112.8. This is a slight improvement from last year, but still an unsatisfactory figure to record, when the rate of the whole County (67) and of the Smaller Towns (56) is considered.

The Average Rate for 1925-29, inclusive, was	87.04
1930-32	74.8
1933	62.5

	England & Wales.	Hexham.
Infantile Death-Rate for 1927-31 (inclusive) was	67 ...	72.76
1932	65 ...	112.8
1933	64 ...	62.5

Births.

112 Births have been registered during the year. This is equivalent to a Birth-Rate of 12.4 on an estimated population of 8,888. 59 were Males and 53 were Females. Of these, 10 were Illegitimate—5 Males, 5 Females. 112 Births is the smallest number registered during the past 10 years and shows a continuance of that steady decline which the M.O.H. commented upon favourably last year, and is below the average (14.4) for England and Wales.

93 Births have been notified under the Notifications of Births Act. Of these, 64 were notified by midwives and 29 by doctors.

Infectious Diseases.

55 cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified to the Ministry of Health, as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	10
Diphtheria	2
Enteric	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	38
Erysipelas	4
Total	55

Notifiable Diseases, other than Tuberculosis, notified to me during the year 1933:—

Diseases	Total Notified Cases	Total Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Enteric Fever - - - - -	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever - - - - -	10	8	—
Diphtheria - - - - -	2	1	—
Erysipelas - - - - -	4	1	—
Pneumonia (Inf. and all Forms) -	38	4	10
Polyencephalitis - - - -	1	—	1
Total - -	56	15	11

Nine cases have been admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year. Of these, eight were Scarlet Fever and one was Diptheria.

A.—Cancer.

There are no special facilities for the treatment of Cancer, other than the advice given by their own private Practitioner, or being sent to the War Memorial Hospital, Hexham, or the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, to which institutions they may be sent, or the Dean Street House (County Hospital).

B.—Prevention of Blindness.

No special treatment, other than the usual Post-Natal treatment.

C.—Tuberculosis.

Cases of Tuberculosis are treated at Wooley Sanatorium, and are under the auspices of the N.C.C. A few beds are at their disposal at Dene Street House Hospital when necessary.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1933.

17 cases of Tuberculosis have been notified during the year. Of these, 12 were Pulmonary and five were Non-Pulmonary.

Four deaths from Tuberculosis have occurred. Of these, two were Males and two Females. Four deaths gives a Death-Rate of .45 per 1,000 living.

The total number of cases of Tuberculosis on the books at December 31st, 1933, is as follows:—

Males.			Females.			
Pulm.	Non-Pulm.		Pulm.	Non-Pulm.		Total.
87	16	...	82	12	...	197

The average number of deaths for the previous ten years was nine. Last year the number was ten. This year there were four deaths in the Urban Area.

The number of deaths from Tuberculosis for the year under review was four, against ten last year, with an average in the past ten years of nine. This shows a considerable decline, but I emphasise that our high figures are largely due to the housing conditions. Until these are satisfactorily improved, you cannot expect to have other than a large Tuberculosis Death-Rate. What you have done is already showing results in your General Death-Rate and your Infantile Death-Rate, and to some extent in Tuberculosis, but a steady progression along the lines of the last few years must continue. It is comparatively useless to send a sufferer to a sanatorium and then bring him back to the insanitary and over-crowded conditions from which he was taken. The patient relapses and is likewise a source of infection to those living with him under such conditions. It has been suggested that a proportion of new houses should be specially allocated to such cases. There is much to be said for this policy, but in a town the size of Hexham there are obvious drawbacks to this scheme. But not adopting it renders it still more important that there should be no cessation or slowing-down in your housing scheme.

Locality of Deaths.

Gilesgate Ward ...	33	Priestpopple Ward	36
Leazes Ward ...	27	Hencotes Ward ...	32
		Total	128

Tuberculosis Cases Notified, all forms.

Gilesgate Ward ...	6	Priestpopple Ward	8
Leazes Ward ...	1	Hencotes Ward ...	2
		Total	17

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Gilesgate Ward ...	1	Priestpopple Ward	1
Leazes Ward ...	Nil	Hencotes Ward ...	2
		Total	4

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
Period	Pulm.		Non-Pulm.		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.	
1933	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	4	—	2	1	1	1	—	—
25—35	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	12	—	3	2	2	2	—	4

1. **Public Health Officers of the Authority: Medical, Nursing and Sanitary.**

One whole-time Medical Officer, who holds the Diploma of Public Health.

One Sanitary Inspector, who is also Town Surveyor and holds the Diploma, A.M.I.C.E. and R.S.I.

One Health Visitor (S.R.N.), Fever and C.M.B.

2. Legislation in force—no change.

A. Laboratory facilities—None.

B. Ambulance—one horse-van for infectious cases of the Urban District Council.

C. Nursing in the homes—a Voluntary Association provides two District Nurses, who also act as Midwives for the district.

D. Clinics and Treatment Centres—None provided by the U.D.C.

E. **Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.**

(i.) The Isolation Hospital fulfils the requirements of the district, but co-ordination with the County is contemplated.

(ii.) The War Memorial Hospital—This is supported by voluntary subscriptions. Any patient who pays a fee is received from the Urban District.

(iii.) Dean Street House—Patients are received from the Urban Area. There is accommodation for Maternity cases. Others go to Corbridge Hospital, which is about two miles away and belongs to the County.

3. Medical Officers of Health, Maternity and Child Welfare.

One Medical Officer.

(i.) Midwifery and Maternity Services—No Change. Two District Nurses.

(ii.) Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children—For mothers—None by the Urban District Council, other than the County Hospital, Dene Street House; for children—the Children's Nursery, Hextol Tce., where they have 35 to 36 cots for permanent children.

(iii.) One Health Visitor, who acts as Infant Protection Visitor under Part i. of the Act.

Maternity and Child Welfare—We had a visit in the Autumn of 1930 from Dr. Janet Turnbull, of the Ministry of Health, who expressed satisfaction throughout, except that she suggested that better premises should be provided for the Infant Welfare Centre. With this Dr. Jackson, the Medical Officer, agreed. This has been done by removing the Centre to much more commodious premises and making necessary alterations in that part of the building devoted to Child Welfare Work.

4. Arrangements for Maternity Beds.

I here repeat the opinion previously expressed by Dr. Jackson, that a small Maternity Hospital is desirable, but do not advise that this should be provided by your Council. Voluntary effort, with assistance from the Council, is the better course. I must point out that beds are available at Dean Street House. The difficulty is to get the patient to accept them. Probably, the old unwarranted stigma attached to the workhouse is the cause, but more vital is the objection to parting with the maternity benefit for this purpose, and of leaving their own homes and family without proper care and supervision. Some modification and help along these lines would meet the urgent necessity for a Maternity Home. As far as the poorer element of society is concerned in a small town like Hexham, more and better houses will also lessen the need for such a Home. At some future date, this part of the scheme might find a footing in the contemplated new premises for Maternity and Child Welfare.

Other Statistics for the Year 1933.

Midwives practising in the district ... ... (Trained, 2; Untrained, nil)	2
Number of cases attended by same in 1933 ...	205
Midwifery	72
Number of cases in which Medical Aid was summoned	12
Number of Maternal Deaths notified in accordance with Rule E. 21/1/3 of the Central Midwives' Board	Nil
Visits paid by Health Visitor during the year	5772
Visits paid to Expectant Mothers	12
Visits paid to Infants under one year, total ...	1925
Visits paid to Infants, 1-5 years, total	4431

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE & ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1933.

England and Wales, 118 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 132 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales and for London have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1933, but those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1932.)

—	Rate per 1,000 Total Population.		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population.									Rate per 1,000 Live Births		Percentage of Total Deaths			
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes.	Typhoid & Para-typhoid fevers	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases.	Certified by Coroner after P.M. No Inqt.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales -	14·4	0·62	12·3	0·01	0·00	0·05	0·02	0·05	0·06	0·57	0·54	7·1	64	90·9	6·3	1·9	0·9
118 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London -	14·4	0·67	12·2	0·00	0·00	0·06	0·02	0·06	0·08	0·55	0·49	9·4	67	91·0	6·0	2·5	0·5
26 Smaller Towns, (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1921).	14·5	0·63	11·0	0·00	0·00	0·04	0·02	0·04	0·04	0·53	0·44	4·9	56	91·7	5·8	1·5	1·0
London - - - -	13·2	0·45	12·2	0·00	0·00	0·02	0·02	0·08	0·08	0·51	0·58	11·6	59	88·3	6·3	5·4	0·0
Hexham	12·4	8·8	14·4	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·66	1·1	8·9	62·5	97·6	7·8	1·5	2·3

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows :

		Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.	Hexham.
per 1,000 Live Births	...	1.79	2.63	4.42	nil.
,, ,, Total Births	...	1.71	2·52	4·23	nil.

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1933.

Gentlemen,

During the year, the re-surfacing and repairs to many roads in the area were carried out, and work was commenced on the improvement of the Mart Roads.

During the year, 1,775 visits have been made to various premises in the district, the outcome of which was the finding of 179 nuisances, all of which were remedied, or since the end of the year have received attention.

Thirty-two new houses have been erected during the year by private enterprise.

Water Supply.—The water supply was well maintained during the year, despite the almost unprecedented drought, there being an ample supply of pure spring water to the whole of the town.

Sewage Disposal.—The district has an efficient system of sewage and drainage, which has been well maintained.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Shops.—I give below the number of premises registered under the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926 :—

Farms	28
Retail Purveyors of Milk	18
Wholesale Traders and Producers of Milk	18

Slaughter Houses.—The Public Slaughter-houses are in good condition, and the killing and preparing is carried out under proper humane and hygienic conditions.

Workshops.—There are 72 Workshops on the register and they, generally, have been found in a satisfactory condition.

Bakehouses.—Eleven are registered and the condition of these houses is, generally, good.

House Refuse.—The house refuse has been collected daily by the Council's employees, and the area of collection is increasing.

Pleasure Grounds.—Pleasure Grounds have received considerable attention. No new work has been carried out.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.—All premises in which cases of Infectious Disease occurred have been disinfected.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. G. LANDALE, A.M.Inst.C.E.,

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

Hexham Urban District Council.

HOUSING (Consolidated) REGULATIONS, 1925.

TABULAR STATEMENT as required by Article 31, for Year 1933.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:—

	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total.
(a) By Local Authority	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons ...	—	32	32

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 800

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 865

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 160

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 160

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 142

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 22

2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers 4

3.—Action under Statutory Powers:—

A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which "notices" were served requiring repairs ..... Nil

(2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—

(a) By Owners ..... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..... Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4

(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) By Owners—4 4

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..... Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of Housing Act, 1930:—

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... Nil

(2) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:—

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..... Nil

(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... Nil

4.—No. of Houses Permanently Discontinued as Dwellings and not included above ..... Nil

(Signed) **W. G. LANDALE**
Inspector.

Annual Report, Sanitary Inspector for 1933.

[Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, Art. 19 (15)].

Name of District :

HEXHAM. URBAN.

Population 8,800

Name of Inspector :

W. G. LANDALE.

	Housing.					Water Supply.		Drainage.		Sanitary Conven														
	Structural defects. (Summary of Sheet 2).	Defective Food-store.	Dampness.	Overcrowding.	Nuisances.	Insufficient.	Unsatisfactory.	Insufficient.	Defective.	Insufficient.	Defective.	Shops, Food-stores, &c.	Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.	Slaughter Houses.	Tents, Vans, &c.	Offensive Trades.	Workshops & Workplaces.	Keeping of Animals.	Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles.	Ashpits improperly used.	Offensive Accumulations.	Smoke Nuisances.	Petrol Stores.	Totals.
No of Inspections during year ...	865	32	16	10	73	..	236	...	28	214	...	23	93	53	10	...	28	1	...	...	3		56	1741
No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws	17	20	11	9	17	...	36	2	7	11	22	1	12	...	3	...	7	1	...	...	3	...	...	179
No. outstanding from previous year. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	17	20	11	9	17	...	36	2	7	11	22	1	12	...	3	...	7	1	...	...	3	...	..	179
No. remedied after letter or interview	15	13	9	3	12	...	14	...	5	8	10	1	12	...	3	...	5	1	...	...	2	...	...	113
No. of Informal Notices Served	2	7	2	6	5	...	22	2	2	3	12	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	66
Defects remedied thereafter	2	5	2	6	5	...	22	2	2	2	12	...	...	...	...	...	2	.	...	...	1	...	...	63
No. of Statutory Notices served	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defects remedied thereafter	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
In progress or being dealt with	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Legal proceedings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

FOOD INSPECTION, 1933.

UNSOUND FOOD.		Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings and Result
Beef—Home-killed	Stones ...	50		
,, Imported ...	,,	...		
Mutton—Home-killed	,,	...		
,, Imported	,,	...		
Pork	,,	...		
Game	Lbs.	...		
Poultry	,,	...		
Fish	,,	...		
Fruit ...	Lbs. or Tins	...		
Canned Goods ...	Cases ...	...		
Bacon	Lbs. ...	...		
Cheese	,,	...		
Butter	,,	...		
Lard	,,			

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

No.	Samples Taken.	Analysis.	Remarks as to action taken, and result.
			None

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces,

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	34	...	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	18	5	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	10	2	
Total	62	7	...

2.—Defects Found in Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	No. of Defects.			
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:				
Want of cleanliness	2	2	...	...
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances	2	2	...	...
Sanitary accommodation — insufficient	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation — not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation — unsuitable, or defective	3	3	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	...	...	...	...
Other Offences ..... (Excluding offences relating to out-work and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule of the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	...	...	...	...
Total	7	7	...	...

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	District : HEXHAM URBAN. Inspector—W. G. LANDALE.	After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences.	Privies abolished	...	...	...	...
	,, repaired	...	1	...	1
	Privy ashpits abolished ...	...	...	...	...
	,, ,, roofed or repaired	...	...	...	...
	Pail-closets abolished ...	...	...	...	...
	Water closets provided ...	4	...	...	4
	,, ,, repaired ...	6	4	1	11
	Sanitary bins provided ...	...	...	...	...
	,, ,, renewed ...	16	...	...	16
Drainage.	New Drains Constructed ...	30	2	.	32
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	3	...	...	3
	Additional gullies provided ...	24	...	...	24
	Old gullies replaced ...	2	...	...	2
	Scullery sinks provided ...	8	2	...	10
	,, waste pipes repaired ...	...	...	...	...
	,, ,, trapped ...	...	...	...	...
	Yards repaired or reconstructed...	1	...	...	1
Water Supply	Sources closed or discontinued, No. of houses affected, Nil.				
	New service provided Nil. 32	,,	,,		32

RIVERS POLLUTION :—
Cases detected: None
Remedied ...
S.D. Works provided ...